

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY REGARDING
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GOALS
FOR STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016-2018
April 20, 2015

The following survey is voluntary and may be completed anonymously. Pursuant to federal regulation 49 C.F.R. Part 26, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is seeking comments on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and overall DBE goal for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). In establishing the overall DBE goal, the federal regulations require that MDOT consult with minority, women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. MDOT appreciates your input and requests that you answer the following survey questions:

1. Type of work your firm primarily performs (circle one):
 - a. Building Construction (e.g., general contracting for construction of residential, industrial, commercial or other buildings and alteration, repair and renovation)
 - b. Heavy Construction (e.g., highways, streets, bridges, tunnels, sewers, railroads)
 - c. Construction Related Services (e.g., testing, surveying, construction management, inspection, estimating, environmental, interior design)
 - d. Trade or Subcontractors (e.g., HVAC, painting, electrical, masonry, carpentry, roofing, excavation, hauling)
 - e. A&E Services (e.g., architectural services and structural, civil, mechanical, electrical, other engineering services)
 - f. Commodities (e.g., equipment, materials, supplies, printing, publishing, vehicles, groceries, concessions retail)
 - g. Information Technology (e.g., hardware/software, programming, systems design, data processing, technical support and consulting, maintenance and repair)
 - h. Maintenance Services (includes any work necessary for the continued operation or upkeep of facilities, structures, buildings, building systems, and grounds, e.g., building cleaning and maintenance services, groundskeeping services)
 - i. Other Services (e.g., financial, insurance, real estate, health, legal, transportation, social, educational, professional, food service, concessions services; does not include maintenance services, A/E services, or construction related services)
 - j. Other (please specify)_____
2. How many years has your firm been in business? _____
3. Is your firm a certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE)?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Is your firm at least 51% owned and controlled by a racial/ethnic minority and/or female?
☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Is your firm a certified DBE?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. If your firm is a certified DBE, have you ever been asked to provide a quote to perform work or participate as a subcontractor on an SHA contract that did NOT have a DBE goal?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Have you ever solicited a minority- or woman-owned business to perform work or participate as a subcontractor on an SHA contract that did NOT have a DBE goal?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. In the past 2 years, has your firm submitted a bid or proposal on any SHA contract as a prime contractor? (Yes or No)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- a. If **YES**, how many times? _____
9. If you submitted a bid or proposal, were you successful?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. If you submitted a bid or proposal on more than one SHA contract as a prime contractor during the past year, how many of those contracts were awarded to you?
- _____
11. What percentage of all SHA work performed by your firm was performed as a prime contractor? (*Please estimate percentage of gross receipts received via contract work*)
- _____
12. As a prime contractor, have you ever solicited a minority- or woman-owned business to work with you as a subcontractor on a SHA contract that did NOT have DBE goals? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. In the past 2 years, has your firm submitted a bid or proposal on any SHA contracts as a **subcontractor to a prime contractor**? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- a. If **YES**, how many times? _____
14. How many times did prime contractors accept your bids? _____
15. How many times was the contractor that selected you for its team successful in winning the SHA contract? _____

16. What percentage of SHA work performed by your firm was performed as a subcontractor? (*Please estimate percentage of gross receipts received via SHA contract work.*) _____
17. If your firm performed work on SHA contracts as a subcontractor, what percentage of those contracts had DBE goals? _____
18. In your experience, have any of the following factors negatively impacted your firm's ability to do business in the Maryland marketplace? (Circle all that apply.)
- a. bonding requirements
 - b. insurance requirements
 - c. previous experience requirements
 - d. cost of bidding or proposing
 - e. project size – project too large
 - f. project size – project too small
 - g. price of supplies or materials
 - h. obtaining working capital
 - i. late notices of bid or proposal deadlines
 - j. prior dealings with a prime contractor's owners or management
 - k. Other (*please specify*) _____
19. Have you ever been treated less favorably due to race, ethnicity and/or gender while participating or attempting to participate in business dealings within the Maryland marketplace?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
20. If **YES** to question 19, circle all of those types of business dealings in which you have felt less favorably treated:
- a. Applying for commercial loans
 - b. Applying for surety bonds
 - c. Applying for commercial or professional insurance
 - d. Obtaining price quotes from suppliers or subcontractors
 - e. Working or attempting to work on public-sector prime contracts
 - f. Working or attempting to work on public-sector subcontracts
 - g. Working or attempting to work on private-sector prime contracts
 - h. Working or attempting to work on private-sector subcontracts
 - i. Receiving timely payment for work performed
 - j. Functioning on the work site
 - k. Joining or dealing with trade associations
 - l. Hiring workers from union halls
 - m. Required to perform inappropriate or extra work not required of others
 - n. Required to meet quality or performance standards not required of others
 - o. Other _____

21. In response to question 19, to the extent you feel comfortable sharing such experiences, please provide details regarding any business dealings in which you were treated less favorably due to race, ethnicity and/or gender. (Please use additional sheets if necessary.)
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22. The current SHA DBE overall participation goal is 29%. Do you think this is a fair overall goal for disadvantaged business participation?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
23. In response to question 22, please explain why or why not? (For example, explain whether you think the goal reflects the existing availability of minority businesses that provide goods and services sought by SHA).
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24. Do you think the proposed goals should be adjusted?
- ☐ Lower ☐ Higher ☐ Remain the Same
25. In response to question 24, describe why you think the current goal should be lower/higher/remain the same. (Please use additional sheets if necessary.)
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26. Do you have any data or evidence to support your position? (Please identify and attach documentation.)
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27. Please provide any other input you or your firm has regarding SHA procurement and/or the DBE Program.
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28. Please list any construction or minority-focused organizations that you would you like to see used to disseminate DBE related notices and other information.
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Please return all completed surveys no later than May 5, 2015 to:

**Maryland Department of Transportation
Tracie Watkins Rhodes
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076**

THANK YOU!

**PROVIDING YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS INFORMATION IS OPTIONAL. IF
YOU PREFER TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, PLEASE STOP HERE.**

CONTACT INFORMATION	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Telephone Number:</i>

Note: In addition to the Survey, Stakeholders also have an opportunity to participate in Stakeholder Public Consultation Sessions scheduled on May 4th and 5th. Prime Contractors ([click here](#)) to register. Subcontractors ([click here](#)) to register. For additional information, contact Tracie Watkins Rhodes at trhodes@mdot.state.md.us.